

## **GROUNDBREAKING FOR MOSAIC GARDENS**

**By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer II**



On Wednesday, January 23, 2013, LINC Housing hosted a groundbreaking for Mosaic Gardens in Huntington Park. The project, partially funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), will transform and rehabilitate Mosaic Gardens from a former motel into 24 new apartment homes for all ages, including former foster youth.

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) director Marvin Southard, D.S.W., celebrated the start of construction. LACDMH is one of the funding partners for the \$10-million development which is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council.



Fifteen of the 24 apartment homes are reserved for transitional age youth (TAY) between the ages of 18-24. The new homes will give TAY a stable, healthy

place to live. Mosaic Gardens will include a playground, community room, private counseling rooms and a computer lab. Families who are eligible to live there earn between 30-50% of the area median income for Los Angeles County, as established by HUD.

“The thing that is the most touching about places like this (Mosaic Gardens) is that we give families and transitional age youth a home – a community. Many of them don’t have that and it is places like this where they form a community. This is a wonderful place for young people and families. This is a benefit to the city of Huntington Park and the community,” said Dr. Southard to the audience. At the event, Dr. Southard joined LINC Housing’s president and CEO Hunter Johnson and Huntington Park’s mayor Andy Molina.



Construction for Mosaic Gardens is expected to be completed by the end of this year or early 2014. Funding for the community has been provided by a variety of sources, including LACDMH, the City of Huntington Park, Los Angeles County General Fund/Homeless Service Center Funds, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles Project-Based Vouchers, California Department of Mental Health through MHSA, Federal Home Loan Bank’s Affordable Housing Program, a grant from Chase Bank, a construction loan from U.S. Bank, and tax credit equity from Raymond James Tax Credit Funds, Inc.

